

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows; this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 23 36, wherein the absorbent ~~body is~~ bodies are trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the absorbent ~~body~~ bodies in an endless travel path.
25. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 23 36, wherein the ~~absorbent body includes two loops of absorbent material each trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the loop in an endless travel path~~ plurality of absorbent bodies includes one group of absorbent bodies trained as a loop around a first roller for travel of the loop in an endless travel path and another group of absorbent bodies trained as a loop around a second roller for travel of the loop in an endless travel path, each of the loops being disposed on a respective lateral side of the contact path such that the contact path extends between the loops and the loops simultaneously contacting an item of clothing on respective opposite lateral sides thereof during advancement of the absorbent ~~body~~ bodies and the item of clothing along the contact path.
26. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the means for reducing the level of moisture retained by the respective absorbent body includes a squeezing out-roller disposed adjacent the endless travel path of the respective absorbent body for mechanically compressing the respective absorbent body to effect removal of moisture from the respective absorbent body.

27. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 23 36, wherein the contact path extends in a vertical direction and the means for advancing advances the respective item of clothing in contact with the respective absorbent body in a vertical direction.
28. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 23 36 and further comprising means for transversely guiding a respective item of clothing being advanced along the contact path, the transversely guiding means being operable to transversely guide a respective item of clothing in a direction transverse to the contact path toward the respective absorbent body.
29. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 23 36 and further comprising a gas jet acting transversely to a surface of a respective item of clothing that has traveled beyond the contact path exit.
30. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 23 36 and further comprising a compressed air nozzle disposed relative to the contact path to emit a stream of compressed air into contact with a respective item of clothing before the item of clothing is advanced along the contact path.
31. (Currently Amended) A method for removing moisture from items of clothing, comprising:
- advancing each respective one of a plurality of absorbent bodies an ~~absorbent body~~ and a first item of clothing along a contact path during a moisture transfer run that begins at a contact path entry; such that the absorbent bodies are successively advanced into contact with the first item of clothing; and

with respect to each absorbent body:

(a) disengaging the absorbent body and the first item of clothing from contact with one another at a contact path exit, the absorbent body absorbing moisture from the first item of clothing as the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are in contact with one another along a contact path extent from the contact path entry to the contact path exit such that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body is greater at the contact path exit than at the contact path entry;

(b) reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body to dispose the absorbent body in a condition for a subsequent moisture transfer run with the absorbent body at a level of moisture at the contact path entry that is lower than the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body at the contact path exit, whereupon the absorbent body and the first item of clothing along the contact path are advanced along the contact path such that the first instance at which the absorbent body is in moisture absorbing contact with the first item of clothing occurs at the contact path entry, the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are advanced along the contact path to permit the absorbent body to absorb moisture from the first item of clothing, thereby leading to an increase in the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body as the absorbent body and the first item of clothing reach the contact path exit, and the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are advanced out of moisture transferring contact with one another at the contact path exit, with the result that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body increases in correspondence with the advancement of the absorbent body and the respective item of clothing along the contact path extent; and

- (c) disposing the absorbent body at the contact path entry for a subsequent advancing movement of the absorbent body in contact with a second item of clothing during a subsequent moisture transfer run along the contact path.
32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the step of advancing an absorbent body and a first item of clothing along a contact path during a moisture transfer run includes advancing the absorbent body as the absorbent body is trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the absorbent body in an endless travel path.
33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the step of advancing an absorbent body and a first item of clothing along a contact path during a moisture transfer run includes advancing two loops of absorbent material each trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the loop in an endless travel path, each of the loops being disposed on a respective lateral side of the contact path such that the contact path extends between the loops and the loops simultaneously contact an item of clothing on respective opposite lateral sides thereof during advancement of the absorbent body and the item of clothing along the contact path.
34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the step of reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body includes contacting the absorbent body with a squeezing out-roller disposed adjacent the endless travel path of the absorbent body for mechanically compressing the absorbent body to effect removal of moisture from the absorbent body.
35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the contact path extends in a vertical direction and the step of the step of advancing an absorbent body and a first item of clothing along a contact path

during a moisture transfer run includes advancing the respective item of clothing in contact with the absorbent body in a vertical direction.

36. (New) An arrangement for removing moisture from items of clothing, comprising:

a plurality of absorbent bodies;

means forming a contact path along which an absorbent body and a first item of clothing are in contact with one another during a moisture transfer run, the contact path having an entry, an exit, and an extent extending between the contact path entry and the contact path exit;

means for disengaging a respective absorbent body and the first item of clothing from contact with one another at the contact path exit, the respective absorbent body absorbing moisture from the first item of clothing as the respective absorbent body and the first item of clothing are in contact with one another along the contact path extent such that the level of moisture retained by the respective absorbent body is greater at the contact path exit than at the contact path entry;

means for reducing the level of moisture retained by a respective absorbent body to dispose the respective absorbent body at a level of moisture at the contact path entry that is lower than the level of moisture retained by the respective absorbent body at the contact path exit; and

means for advancing each respective absorbent body and the first item of clothing along the contact path such that the first instance at which each respective absorbent body is in moisture absorbing contact with the first item of clothing occurs at the contact path entry, the respective absorbent body

and the first item of clothing are advanced along the contact path to permit the respective absorbent body to absorb moisture from the first item of clothing, thereby leading to an increase in the level of moisture retained by the respective absorbent body as the respective absorbent body and the first item of clothing reach the contact path exit, and the respective absorbent body and the first item of clothing are advanced out of moisture transferring contact with one another at the contact path exit, the means for advancing being operable to dispose each respective absorbent body at the contact path entry for a subsequent advancing movement of the absorbent body in contact with a second item of clothing during a subsequent moisture transfer run along the contact path, the means for advancing and the means forming a contact path being configured such that the level of moisture retained by each respective absorbent body increases in correspondence with the advancement of the respective absorbent body and the respective item of clothing along the contact path extent, the means for advancing and the means forming a contact path operating in coordination with one another such that the plurality of absorbent bodies are successively advanced one after another into contact with a respective item of clothing along the contact path extent, whereupon, during each moisture transfer run, one of the absorbent bodies will eventually be advanced out of moisture transferring contact with the respective item of clothing at the contact path exit at a time that another one of the absorbent bodies following behind the one absorbent body has not yet completed its advancing movement in contact with the respective item of clothing.